

Concord Presbyterian Church

SHOWING UP, WITH GOD'S LOVE



THE JOY OF BETHLEHEM

Advent/Christmas Worship

THE JOY OF RESTORATION

DECEMBER 22, 2024

SOME NOTES TO HELP YOU PARTICIPATE FULLY IN WORSHIP:

The * symbol indicates to Rise in Body or Spirit.

We encourage worshippers of all ages to participate in the sanctuary. There are quiet toys and supplemental activities for young people in our balcony, and a nursery available for those ages 3 or younger.

Hearing assistive devices are available in a bin to the left of the main sanctuary doors.

Notes about the Worship Series: The people of Bethlehem found themselves in the midst of a world at chaos. Yet, throughout the Gospel stories, we find moments of Joy in the midst of the darkness. How can the people of Bethlehem teach us to find God's hope in a weary world?

Upcoming Volunteers

DECEMBER 22 LITURGIST	Joe Bottoms
DECEMBER 22 FELLOWSHIP	Liz and Thomas Setser

DECEMBER	Thomas Setser
ELDER OF THE MONTH	

WELCOME

One: Come, let us sit at the feet, on the shoulders, and in the arms of the loving God who calls us beloved children.

All: We are God's chosen family, cousins in grace, united by an ancestry of miracles.

One: Come, let us sit around the table, telling stories of God's goodness—the stories of love that brought us together.

All: Let us nourish our friendships with encouragement and appreciation, leaving petty matters behind.

One: Come, let us sing the songs of our faith, a love song to God, for all the beauty that has accompanied our journeys

All: We sing songs of praise in times of trial and triumph, for we know in the singing we are fortified with courage.

One: Come, let us worship the One who loved us from creation ,... from the cross, and from the empty tomb

All: Let the love of God be the center of our worship today. Amen.

One: Join me in prayer. Amen

ADVENT WREATH

*HYMN

From the Manger



1. A qui - et town called House of Bread,
2. A star - ry sky breaks forth with light,
3. From grass - y field to Je - sus' side
4. Mar - y's ba - by close - ly held,



a new-born ba - by falls a - sleep;
 the an - gel says, "Be not a - fraid."
 a hum - ble shep-herd runs back home.
 wrapped up in sweet ex - spect - an - cy.



a bed of hay be - neath his head,
 Glor - i - a to the high - est heights,
 For - ev - er changed one ho - ly night,
 Now the Mes - si - ah is un - veiled,



Im - man - u - el be - gins to dream.
 hea - ven - ly hosts are sing - ing praise.
 com - pelled to make these won - ders known.
 em - bod - ied for the world to see



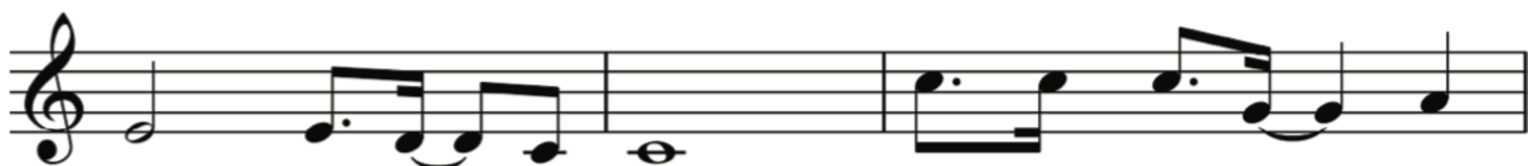
For all cre - a - tion to be fed;
 You'll find him as the an - gel said;
 From pas - tures green will all be fed;
 So all cre - a - tion can be fed;



hope from the ground_ to the break - ing of bread.
 peace from the heav'ns_ to the break - ing of bread.
 joy from the fields__ to the break - ing of bread.
 love will be found__ in the break - ing of bread.



From the man - ger__ hope grows; he will
 From the man - ger__ peace grows; he will
 From the man - ger__ joy grows; he will
 From the man - ger__ love grows; he will



be God with us.___ From the man - ger_ hope
 be God - with - us.___ From the man - ger_ peace
 be God - with - us.___ From the man - ger_ joy
 be God - with - us.___ From the man - ger_ love



grows: Bread of Life, Je - sus.___
 grows: Bread of Life, Je - sus.___
 grows: Bread of Life, Je - sus.___

Preparing our Hearts to Listen

TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

One: In Silence, let us confess the ways in which we have not loved our neighbors either through things we have done or things we have left undone.

All: Ever-loving and compassionate God, you have shown us how to love. You sent your Son to teach us, 'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.' Love requires us to care for others.

We confess we have turned our eyes away from suffering. Love abounds in shared meals and conversation. We confess we have avoided interaction and common tables. We confess we have limited love to familiar boxes and boundaries.

From creation, you have demonstrated your love through a beautiful world with enough resources for all to thrive. We confess we have hoarded resources and fenced ourselves in, away from people who are different from us. From the manger, you have shown us love that visits the humble and powerless. We confess we have aimed our affections toward the popular and powerful.

Teach us to love, that we might be true disciples of the one who showed us how to love. May the world be filled with love. Amen.

GLORIA

On Christmas Night All Christians

#112,

Sing

vs. 2 and 4

The Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

LUKE 1:46-55

Mary said,

“With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

He has looked with favor on the low status of his
servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me
highly favored

because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name.

He shows mercy to everyone,
from one generation to the next,
who honors him as God.

He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and
proud inclinations.

He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty-handed.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy,

just as he promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants
forever.”

SONG

Joy to the World (Joyful, Joyful)

Wickham

Jeremy Troyer, Joe Raymer, Bob Bunch,
Melissa Donnelly

Prayer of the People

*HYMN

While We are Waiting, Come

#92, vs.

THE PEOPLE'S PRAYER

One: ... we pray

All: Loving God, hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN

While We are Waiting, Come

#92, vs. 3

Offering our Time, Talent, and Treasure to God

*Ways to Donate your Time and Talent are
found in the back of this bulletin*



MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT.

- in the offering plates in the back
- Online at concordpreschurch.com or the QR code to the left

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Let us affirm our commitment to and belief in the Christian discipline of love. We believe love was born into this world as a tiny child, bringing freedom and salvation to all people.

All: We believe love embraces us in our joy and our sorrow, holding us closely and never letting go.

One: We believe love is expansive and inclusive, guiding us to see the humanity in each other.

All: We believe love empowers us to provide nourishment for the hungry and hospitality for the stranger.

One: We believe love calls us to act with compassion, even when it is difficult and costly.

All: We believe love inspires us to build a community where every person is valued, their dignity affirmed, and their worth celebrated.

One: We believe love challenges us to confront systems of injustice that cause hunger and inequality.

All: We believe love compels us to advocate for change, seeking justice and equity for all people.

One: We believe love teaches us that when we give of ourselves, we reflect the heart of God.

All: Let the people be loving, not just in words, but in actions that transform lives and systems.

One: Let the people be loving, creating a world where God's love is made visible in every act of kindness, justice, and advocacy.

All: Let us love boldly, working together to ensure all have what they need to thrive. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

#82

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Poinsettias



are offered by:

John & Joyce Ervin

in honor of Hugh Ervin

in memory of Emily Ervin

in memory of Lyn & Margaret Hay

The Baker Family

in memory of Beanie & Gene Baker

in memory of Martha & Chal Stikeleathe

in memory of Dare Stikeleather Ballard

Michael & Teresa Cook

in memory of Mr & Mrs. David Cook

in memory of Mr & Mrs. William Stroud

Karen Donnelly

in honor of Betty & Rick Sharpe

Jane Patterson

in memory of Bud Patterson

The Troyer Family

in memory of Raymond Dempsey, Jr.

in memory of Patricia & George Glaser

in memory of Freeman & Mary Troyer

Youth and Children Ministry Updates



Sunday Fellowship is open to anyone Kindergarten through Senior in High School.

SEE YOU AFTER THE BREAK!!!!

We need help with dinner next semester.
Please look at your calendar and see when you might be able to help!

Go to: cpcstatesville.org/youth to sign-up

Subscribe to the Youth Calendar and Messaging:



or stay up-to-date at
cpcstatesville.org/youth

Midweek Devotion

Read: Luke 2:10 | Matthew 2:10 | Isaiah 9:2-3

The paradox of might and mercy in the angels' proclamation reminds us that God's presence in our lives often challenges our expectations. When love breaks through, it invites us to see the world and our paths within it differently.

Isaiah 9:6 describes the coming Messiah as the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. These titles show us just how powerful Christ is, yet we're invited to know him as a friend and to know ourselves through his closeness to us. God recognizes and responds to us with a deep, abiding affection transcending names and titles, binding us together.

Jesus' humble birth in a manger, celebrated by the heavens and earth alike, underscores a radical reordering: in God's kingdom, the last are first, the humble are exalted, and the meek reign. The shepherds' response to the angelic announcement—spreading the news of this great joy—underscores how we, too, are called to live in light of our cherished place in God's heart.

God was with the shepherds and the Magi then and is with us now. What a marvelous reality—love made a way to be near us when there was no way. In Jesus, love has a name. As candles flicker and carols are sung, hold close to the truth that love knows your name.



Packing Party Goodies!



Baking Cookies for Project Christmas



Santa!



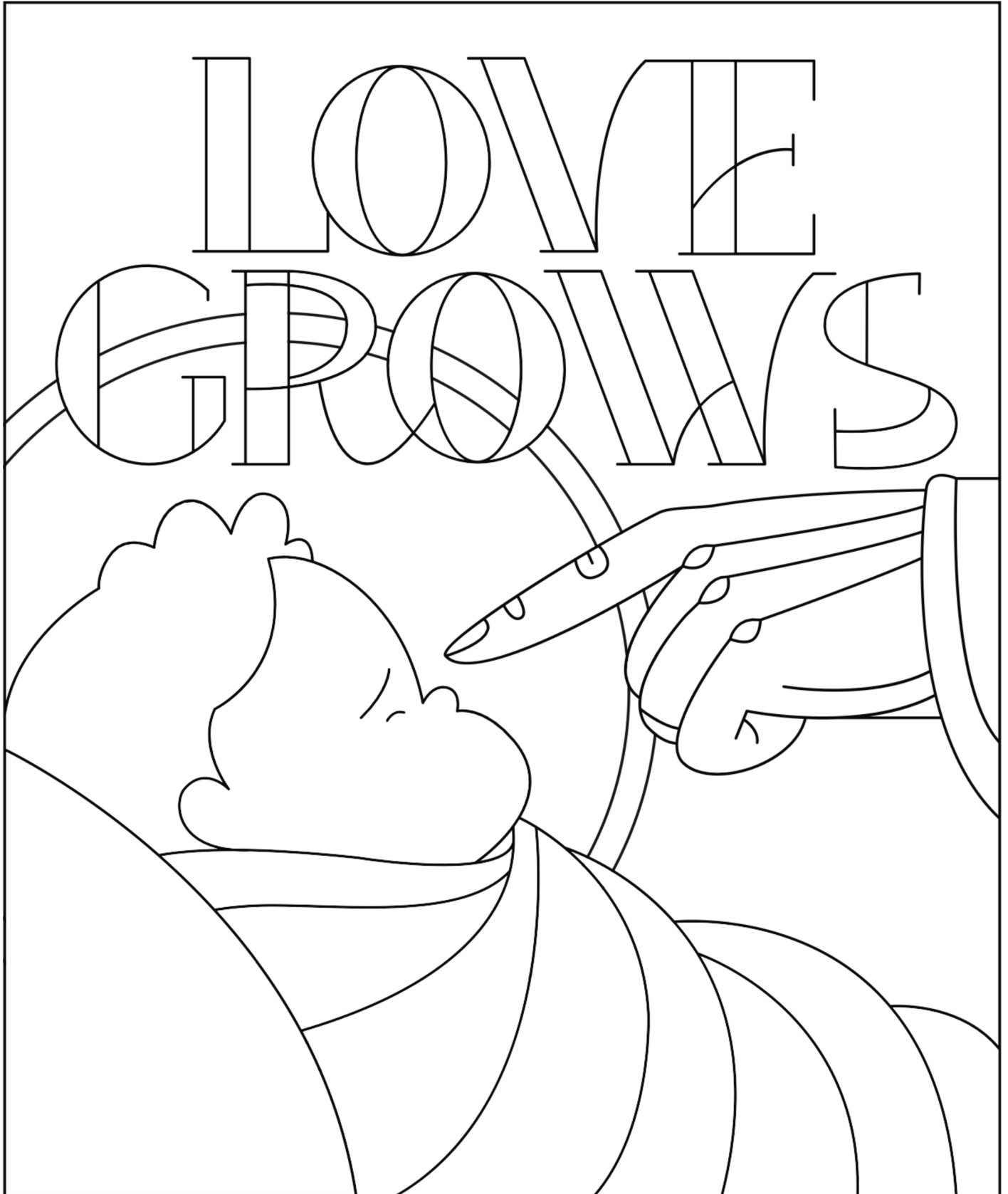
25 Goody Bags for At Home Members



Presents for Community Families

ADVENT FOUR

INTERACTIVE WORSHIP BULLETIN FOR ALL AGES



WORD SEARCH

Today's Advent worship is all about love—how love connects us, feeds us, and saves us. Find as many words about love and the story of Jesus and Simeon as you can in this word search!

G K E D T X P R O M I S E T K
A E A P H F T S S M Z E B N I
S F T J S Q F Z K I G U O E M
P N C A V Y T I S D M I H R O
B P O C R S E U S T T E I A D
E N M I R B S U L A Z L O C E
R L M A S E E D V F T O X N E
A Z U L J S O L V F C V P X R
H H N N D R A F E R E E I I F
S T I P O S Y P I C N E J N E
R I T N G J R G M X N U D C P
C A Y O F O O X U O O H A L J
X F Q L I G H T E O C Z E U M
A Z A E R A N O I T C A N D V
H Q Z A G B U U D W X Y E E W

LOVE

LIGHT

JESUS

SIMEON

GOD

SALVATION

PROMISE

CARE

CONNECT

FREEDOM

FEED

COMPASSION

SHARE

ACTION

COMMUNITY

FAITH

CELEBRATE

INCLUDE

LOVE BINGO

There are many ways we express and share LOVE as a gathered faith family! In this interactive bingo/LOVE game, you get to mark an “X” on each form of love you share during today’s worship service. You can get a “LOVE” across, up/down, or diagonal.

L	O	V	E
Say “Hi” to someone you know	Wave to someone you don’t know	Sing a song or hymn	FREE SPACE 
Say “Amen!”	Shake someone’s hand	Look up today’s Scripture passage	Smile at the pastor during the sermon :)
Spot the Communion Table or Baptismal Font	Join in the Prayers of the People	Say “God loves you” to someone	Take three big belly breaths
Write down a prayer for someone sitting near you	Give a high-five to one of the musicians	Do a full body stretch while you sing	Draw a picture about <i>love</i> to give someone

WORDS to CARRY

Write down three words from today’s service on **love** that you will carry with you this week.

OUR LEADERSHIP

CLASS OF 2024

JOHN ERVIN
ERIC MILLSAPS
SALLY WARREN

CLASS OF 2025

TIM DONNELLY
JOYCE ERVIN
DELLA KINNEY
THOMAS SETSER

CLASS OF 2026

CHRIS HARRIS
PAUL WOODARI

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON TEAM

ERIC MILLSAPS

JOHN ERVIN

LIZ SETSER

JEREMY TROYER

OUR TEAM

Rev. Elizabeth Troyer | Pastor
pastorliz@concordpreschurch.com

Cyndy Sowder | bookkeeper
info@concordpreschurch.com

Elizabeth Dobson | Music Director

Melissa Donnelly | Pianist

Samantha Dudley | Caretaker

OUR VALUES

- Welcome and include all people, no matter their life circumstances.
- Empower all people to find and use their God-given gifts.
- Live lives of service to those outside our walls.

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